

THE EROSION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
INTELLIGENCE AND ITS IMPACT ON
THE PUBLIC SECURITY

CSC

OLC #78-2867

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CRIMINAL LAWS AND PROCEDURES
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
UNITED STATES SENATE
NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

PART 4

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EASTLAND AND THURMOND CHARGE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
HAS DISMANTLED FEDERAL EMPLOYEE SECURITY PROGRAM

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On February 9, Mr. Alan K. Campbell, Chairman of the U.S. Civil Service Commission, testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Criminal Laws and Procedures concerning the impact that the erosion of law enforcement intelligence has had on the Federal Employee Security Program. The hearing record, which was released today, contained a letter from Senators Eastland and Thurmond to Mr. Campbell dated March 1, stating that, in the light of Mr. Campbell's testimony, they

find it difficult to avoid the conclusion that, over the past five years or so, without the knowledge of Congress, and contrary to statutory requirement and the Commission's own regulations, there has been a progressive dismantling of the Federal Loyalty-Security Program -- until today, for all practical purposes, we do not have a Federal Loyalty-Security Program worthy of the name.

The letter quoted Mr. Campbell as saying that "most law enforcement officials personally would like to cooperate with us, but because of confusion resulting from different interpretations of LEAA regulations, Privacy Act provisions and State laws, they play it safe by declining to release information." On this point, Eastland and Thurmond commented: "If you can't get information from local law enforcement agencies, it becomes abundantly clear that your ability to do meaningful background checks is virtually non-existent."

In the course of his testimony, Mr. Campbell informed the Subcommittee that the Commission was planning to destroy the personal and organizational files which it had built up over many years. In their letter, Eastland and Thurmond asked that the Commission "postpone taking any irrevocable action with regard to the files currently in your possession until Congress has had an opportunity to consider the matter and make a finding." Replying to this letter on March 13, Mr. Campbell indicated that the Commission had put a "hold" on the proposed destruction of the files. The Subcommittee noted that the destruction of the files would have been a fait accompli had the Eastland-Thurmond letter arrived a few days later.

(The complete text of the Eastland-Thurmond letter of March 1 is to
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be found on Page 226. Mr. Campbell's reply appears on Page 232.)